PROPOSED

FARE CHANGES

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We're considering a new fare policy

The Sound Transit Board of Directors is considering several fare change options for 2015, including a new low-income fare.

We want to know what you think. Your comments will help inform the Board's decision on Nov. 20.

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PROPOSED
FARE CHANGES

Why is Sound Transit considering fare changes?

- **Low-income fare program could increase ridership and get more people to where they need to go, like jobs, appointments and school.**

- **The program would also ensure fare consistency for low-income riders in King County by aligning with King County Metro's adopted low-income fare program.**

- **In March 2015, Metro is implementing a discounted fare of $1.50 for adult riders with incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level and increasing fares by 25 cents for other riders. Transit partners in Snohomish and Pierce counties are not pursuing the low-income program at this time.**

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How would this fare change work?

- **Sound Transit is considering implementing a low-income adult fare* on one or more transit services.**

- **To offset revenue loss, fares would increase 25 cents for all other riders (other adults, youth, seniors and people with disabilities) where a low-income fare is adopted.**

- **If Sound Transit adopts fare changes, it will begin implementation at the same time as Metro.**

- **Riders would apply for low-income fare certification at a participating agency in King County. Eligible riders would be issued special ORCA cards allowing them to pay the reduced fare.**

*** The reduced fare will be available to adult riders with incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level — about $23,000 in annual income for an individual or $47,700 annual household income for a family of four.**

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OPTION 1

No fare changes

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Option 1 No fare changes

- **Under this option, Sound Transit would not implement any fare changes in 2015, including a low-income fare.**
- **Metro would still implement fare changes in March 2015.**
- **Sound Transit could wait to consider fare changes until the next anticipated fare increase and/or study Metro program outcome.**

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OPTION 2

Link light rail

Low-income fare **$1.50**

All other fares increase **$0.25**

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Option 2 Fare changes on Link light rail only

	Current Link light rail fares	Proposed Link light rail fares
Low-income adult	N/A	$1.50
Adult	$2.00-2.75*	$2.25-3.00*
Youth	$1.25	$1.50
Senior/disabled	$0.75	$1.00

*Fares vary depending on length of trip

- **28% of current Link boardings could qualify for low-income fare**
- **Uses Metro's card eligibility certification and distribution network**
- **Target implementation date: March 2015**

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OPTION 3

Link light rail

ST Express bus
(Routes within King County)

Low-income fare $1.50

All other fares increase $0.25

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Option 3

Fare changes on Link light rail and ST Express King County‡ bus trips

ST Express routes within King County: 522, 540, 542, 545, 550, 554, 555, 556, 560, 566, 567, 577

	Current Link light rail fares	Proposed Link light rail fares	Current ST Express King County fares	Proposed ST Express King County‡ fares
Low-income adult	N/A	$1.50	N/A	$1.50
Adult	$2.00-2.75*	$2.25-3.00*	$2.50	$2.75
Youth	$1.25	$1.50	$1.25	$1.50
Senior/disabled	$0.75	$1.00	$0.75	$1.00

*Fares vary depending on length of trip

- **26% of current Link and ST Express King County boardings could qualify for low-income fares**
- **Uses Metro's card eligibility certification and distribution network**
- **Target implementation date: March 2015**

‡ *The low-income fare and increases to all other fares would also apply to one-county trips on any ST Express routes, in any county.*

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OPTION 4

Link light rail

ST Express bus

Sounder

Low-income fare

$1.50	$1.50-$2.75	$2.25-$4.00

All other fares increase $0.25

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Option 4

Fare changes on all Sound Transit services in all three counties

All fares increase by $0.25, except low-income adults pay $1.50 or the youth fare, whichever is more.

	Current Link light rail fares	Proposed Link light rail fares	Current Sounder fares	Proposed Sounder fares
Low-income adult	N/A	$1.50	N/A	$2.25-4.00*
Adult	$2.00-2.75*	$2.25-3.00*	$2.75-5.25*	$3.00-5.50*
Youth	$1.25	$1.50	$2.00-3.75*	$2.25-4.00*
Senior/disabled	$0.75	$1.00	$1.25-2.50*	$1.50-2.75*

*Fares vary depending on length of trip

	Current ST Express one-county fares	Proposed ST Express one-county fares	Current ST Express multi-county fares	Proposed ST Express multi-county fares
Low-income adult	N/A	$1.50	N/A	$2.75
Adult	$2.50	$2.75	$3.50	$3.75
Youth	$1.25	$1.50	$2.50	$2.75
Senior/disabled	$0.75	$1.00	$1.50	$1.75

- **24% of all current Sound Transit boardings could qualify for low-income fares**
- **Would require additional setup work to replicate program in Snohomish and Pierce counties**
- **Fare changes would be phased in on King County-based services beginning in March 2015 and on Pierce and Snohomish-based services to follow**

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Summary of fare change options

Link light rail

	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3	OPTION 4
Low-income adult	No change	$1.50	$1.50	$1.50
All other riders	No change	+$0.25	+$0.25	+$0.25

ST Express King County

Low-income adult	No change	No change	$1.50	$1.50
All other riders	No change	No change	+$0.25	+$0.25

ST Express multi-county

Low-income adult	No change	No change	No change	Same as youth fare
All other riders	No change	No change	No change	+$0.25

Sounder

Low-income adult	No change	No change	No change	Same as youth fare
All other riders	No change	No change	No change	+$0.25

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NEXT STEPS

Tell us what you think about the fare change options. Your comments will help inform the Board's decision on Nov. 20.

All comments due

9/19 **10/7** **10/16** **10/23** **11/20**

Public comment period

Public meetings

Public hearing
Sound Transit
Union Station

Sound Transit
Board meeting

Board decision
Sound Transit
Union Station

How to comment

In person: Submit comment form at this meeting via comment box or laptop
Online: soundtransit.org/farechange
Email: fares@soundtransit.org
Call: 1-866-940-4387
Mail: Sound Transit | Attn: Brian Brooke | 401 S. Jackson St. | Seattle, WA 98104

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